

REMARKS

The rejections of Claims 1, 2 and 6 as being anticipated by Yamada et al under 35 USC § 102(b) and of Claims 3-5 as being unpatentable over Yamada et al in view of Erskine et al under 35 USC § 103(a) are traversed. Reconsideration of each of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The Office Action apparently equates the lead wire 30 in Fig. 1 of Yamada et al to the claim first and second lead conductors of Claims 1-6. That is, applicants assume, pursuant to their attached marked-up sketch of Fig. 1 of Yamada et al, that lead wires 30A1, 30A2 correspond to the claimed first lead conductor and that lead wires 30A1, 30A2 correspond to the claimed second lead conductor. However, the claimed second lead conductor (15H2 and 15H3) extends to an outer circumferential end of the substrate as shown in Fig. 1. No such arrangement is found in the Yamada et al measuring element where none of the lead wires extend to the outer circumference notwithstanding any statement in the Office Action to the contrary.

Thus, even if the Yamada et al and Erskine et al arrangements would have been combinable to one of ordinary skill in the art in an obvious manner, the resulting hypothetical combination would still not have produced the present invention as claimed. Nor does the Yamada et al patent disclose a thinner connection but the Office Action does not explicate what structure constitutes that connection. Applicants submit that such structure does not exist.

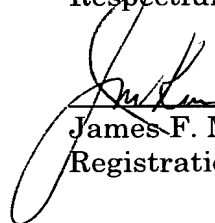
Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 056205.49697).

Respectfully submitted,

April 29, 2005



James F. McKeown
Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JFM:crf
#372271v1